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Joint letter From Cat Dalrymple / Karyn McCluskey

As you may be aware, since 2013 the Scottish Government has supported a number of third sector services across Scotland that have provided mentoring and throughcare to thousands of individuals as they have been released from prison, and returned to their community.

These services have become a valuable part of the justice system across Scotland, and are a good example of the ability of Scotland's third sector organisations to operate in partnership to deliver our shared objectives. Given that almost ten years have passed since the initial development of these Public Social Partnerships, we consider that the time is right for the SG to review our approach to supporting the role of the third sector in delivering throughcare

SG Justice remains committed to supporting the delivery of throughcare services for prison leavers, and to the role of third sector services in delivering that work.

SG Justice Directorate have agreed plans with Community Justice Scotland (CJS), and in the coming months CJS will be undertaking a substantial new project which will begin by reviewing the voluntary throughcare services which SG funds and a wider examination of prisoner throughcare services across the Scottish justice sector, through a detailed dialogue with sector stakeholders.

This research and review activity will then inform a commissioning process delivered by CJS, which will identify and recommend which services and service providers SG Justice will allocate grant funding to in subsequent years, to provide national delivery of voluntary throughcare services for male and female prison leavers across Scotland.

In terms of the scope of the future service which CJS will be looking to commission, the following is proposed:

- The commissioning of the voluntary throughcare and mentoring services to short-term prisoners, does not include the throughcare services provided by local authorities to short and long-term prisoners on either a voluntary or statutory basis and is in no way connected to the Scottish Prison Service throughcare provision which is temporarily suspended, however continues to be under review;
- The confirmed budget for future commissioning of voluntary throughcare and mentoring service provision is £3.7m p.a.;
- Future service provision should provide consistent, national coverage and provision for both male and female prisoners;
- The current national female service engages with sentenced and remanded prisoners, and supports women struggling to complete community sentences, this will be reviewed during the process;
- Future service provision should also include a throughcare service for male prisoners leaving remand.

While this process will naturally look carefully at the role of other services that support release and reintegration, it's remit will not cover the responsibilities of local authorities and justice social work to deliver statutory throughcare and supervision activities, or the operations of the SPS (or the budget settlements that support that work).

These proposals have been in development for some time, and some stakeholders will have already had some initial discussions with CJS and SG Community Justice officials about the aims of this process. This work reflects CJS's ongoing role to promote and support a strategic approach to commissioning across the justice sector, and will draw upon the skills of their staff, with the continuing support from SG Justice.

This process will begin shortly, and will aim to inform the allocation of SG funding for voluntary throughcare activity from financial year 2024/25 (i.e. from 1 April 2024.)

In light of this, we are issuing this joint letter to invite you to attend a launch event which will take place on 11 May 2022. This event will be the first part of a process of discussion and consultation that CJS will be undertaking, which will enable all stakeholders to contribute to the development of future plans.

At this event, CJS officials will set out plans for a series of roundtable consultation events in summer 2022 which will allow more in-depth engagement with throughcare services, wider justice stakeholders, public and third sector representatives, and people with previous experience the justice system.

The event will be facilitated by Institute for Research and Innovation in Social Services (IRISS), and will be held primarily online. Representatives from CJS and SG will give short presentations to set out plans for the work ahead, answer any initial questions about the process, and set out plans for the work ahead.

We would welcome representatives from across the third sector, justice services and other key partners and stakeholders to attend this launch event – and to participate fully in the subsequent discussions.

With this in mind, we would very much appreciate if you could RSVP to [Guy.Murray@communityjustice.scotland](mailto:Guy.Murray@communityjustice.scotland) and confirm your attendance. Full details of the event will be circulated closer to the day.

If you have any further questions, about the event, or the wider process, please do not hesitate to get in touch with [Claire.Penny@communityjustice.scot](mailto:Claire.Penny@communityjustice.scot).



Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Karyn Mcluskey".

Karyn Mcluskey  
Chief Executive,  
Community Justice Scotland

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Cat Dalrymple".

Cat Dalrymple  
Deputy Director  
SG Community Justice Division



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